

Bell companies operate an "essential facility", and should have to accommodate other ISP firms that wish to purchase access from them. As an example of what can(not) happen when the BOCs have no competition, consider that ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network) became a viable technology for widespread, public access to broadband telecommunications capacity in the mid 1980s. It has been almost two decades and the service is still largely unavailable nationwide. Where ISDN is available, getting the service is unbelievably frustrating and difficult to procure. This is what the RBOCs don't do for their customers when they are not challenged by competition. They (the BOCs) require the FCC's most stern attention to stimulate competition to the benefit of the consumers. To not do so would cripple the '96 Telecom Act. Chairman Powell: Please do not sell out to BIG BUSINESS, at the expense of competition and the small businesses of our country.